



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bill Defining Columbarium Approved by Assembly

Madison, WI—Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously approved, by a voice vote, SB 229, a seminal piece of legislation authored by Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) that defines columbaria in Wisconsin State Statutes, and provides religious associations with the autonomy necessary to comply with the wishes of individuals, while protecting the rights of municipalities to control local zoning.

“Columbaria law and regulation have not kept pace with the ever-changing process of how individuals choose to honor their loved ones’ remains,” said Representative Rob Brooks. “SB 229 brings cemetery law into the twenty-first century, while simultaneously affording individuals with the ability to have their remains inurned in a fashion that complies with their final wishes,” Representative Rob Brooks said,

“With more individuals choosing creation over traditional burial, this legislation will ultimately affect every legislative district in Wisconsin. SB 229 makes much needed changes to cemetery statutes and provides religious associations with the ability to build, oversee and maintain columbaria, located on property they own, much like they currently do with cemeteries,” said Representative Brooks.

In the process of drafting this legislation, we worked diligently to ensure local zoning rights were protected. This legislation places a one year moratorium for local municipalities to develop zoning ordinances relating to columbaria.

SB 229 now goes to Governor Scott Walker for his signature.

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